

Envision Plum Island

Walter Mugdan, Acting Region 2 Administrator, US EPA

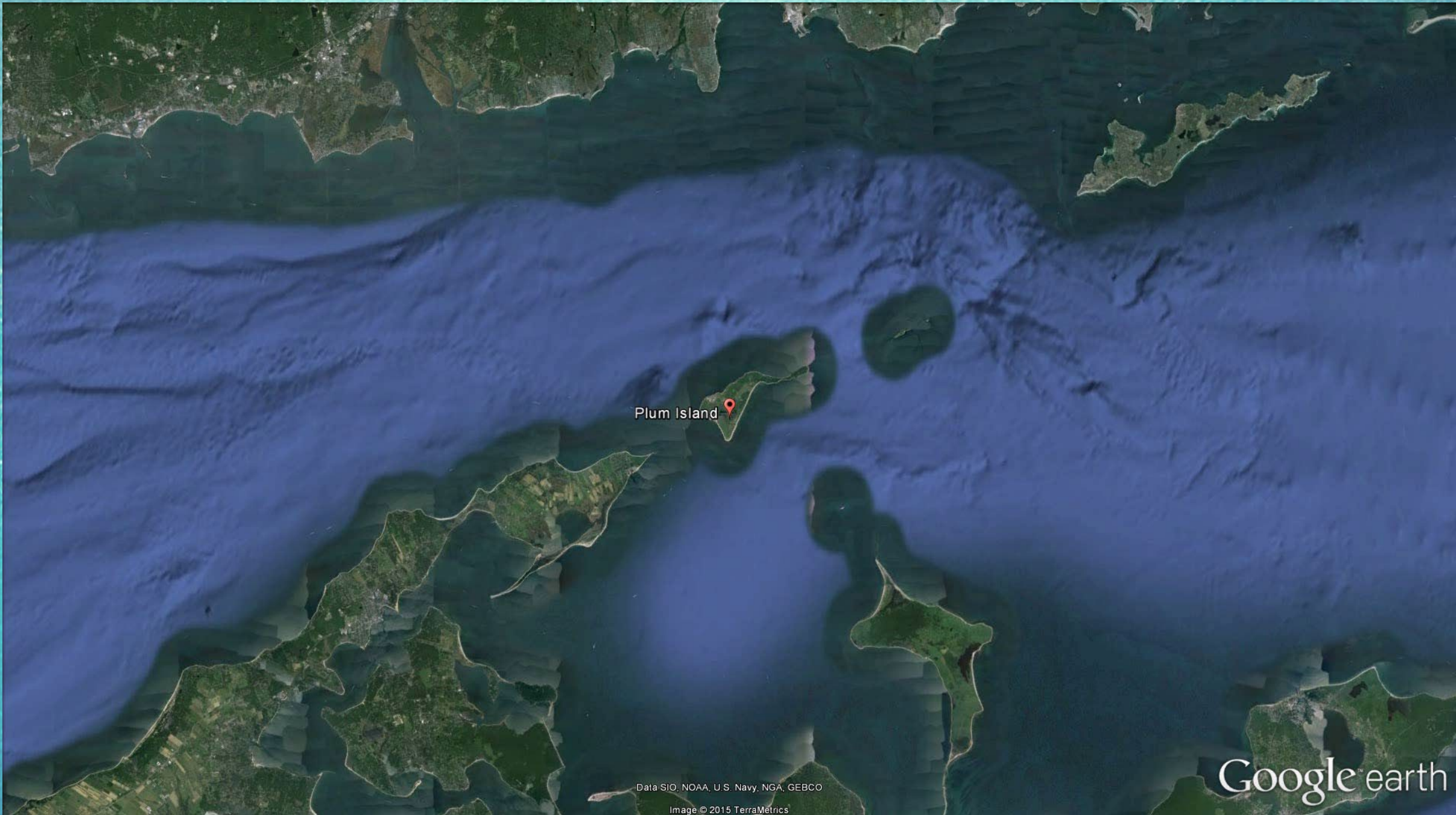
Louise Harrison

New York Natural Areas Coordinator

Save the Sound lharrison@savethesound.org

April 14, 2021





Plum Island

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Image © 2015 TerraMetrics

Google earth



A diversity of natural communities
in a small area

*Courtesy of
the NYNHP*

Extant species: **Central Park, NYC** – 843 acres, 362 plant species, a majority exotic
Plum Island – 840 acres, 444 plant species, a majority *native*
32 new species found in 2015!

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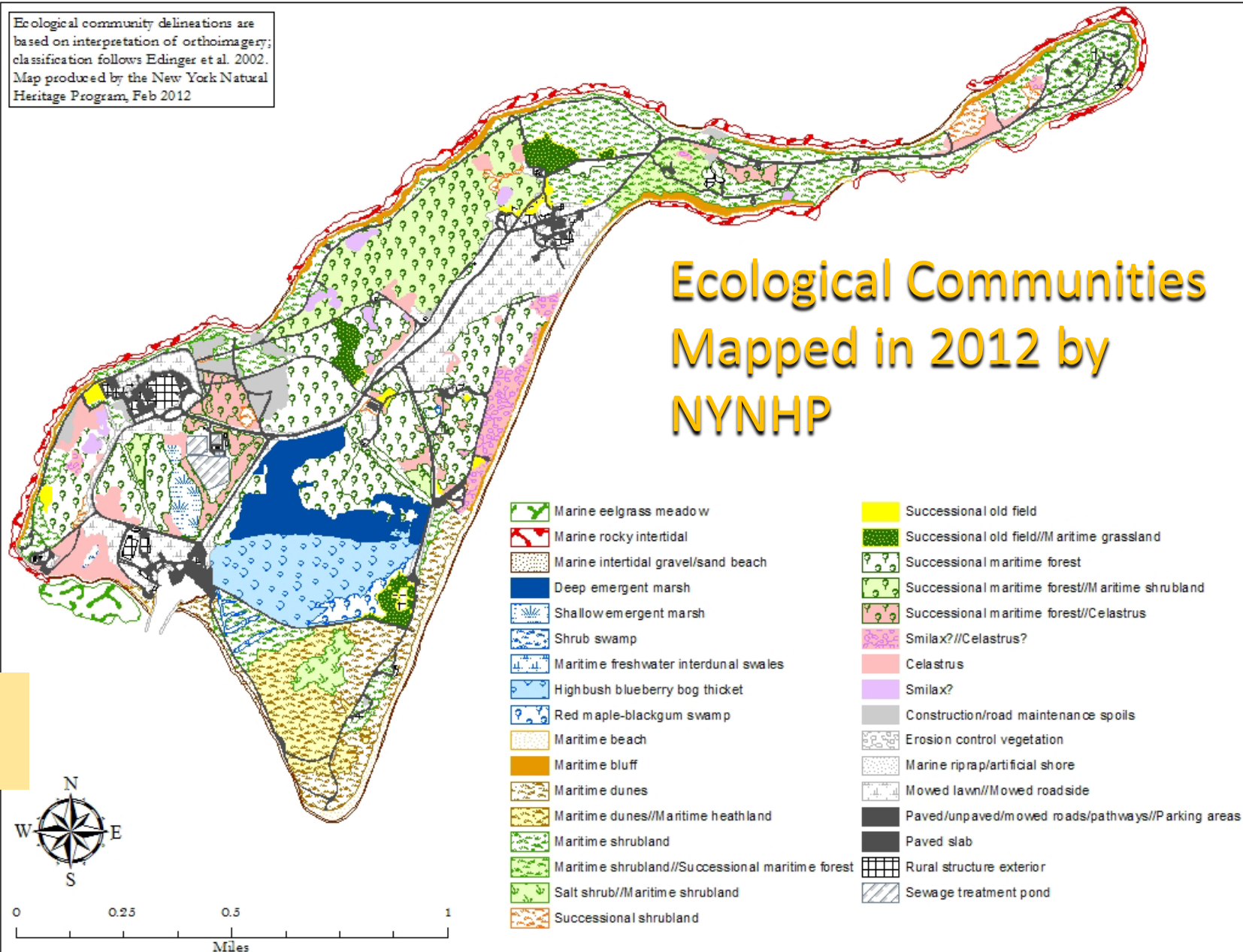
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Ecological community delineations are based on interpretation of orthoimagery; classification follows Edinger et al. 2002. Map produced by the New York Natural Heritage Program, Feb 2012

Ecological Communities Mapped in 2012 by NYNHP



2012 and 2016 biodiversity reports available at NYNHP.org/plumisland

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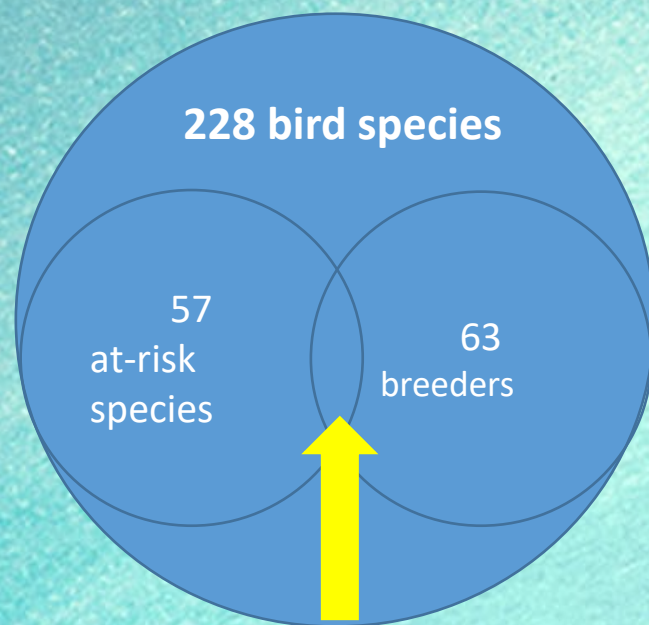
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13 breeding
at-risk species







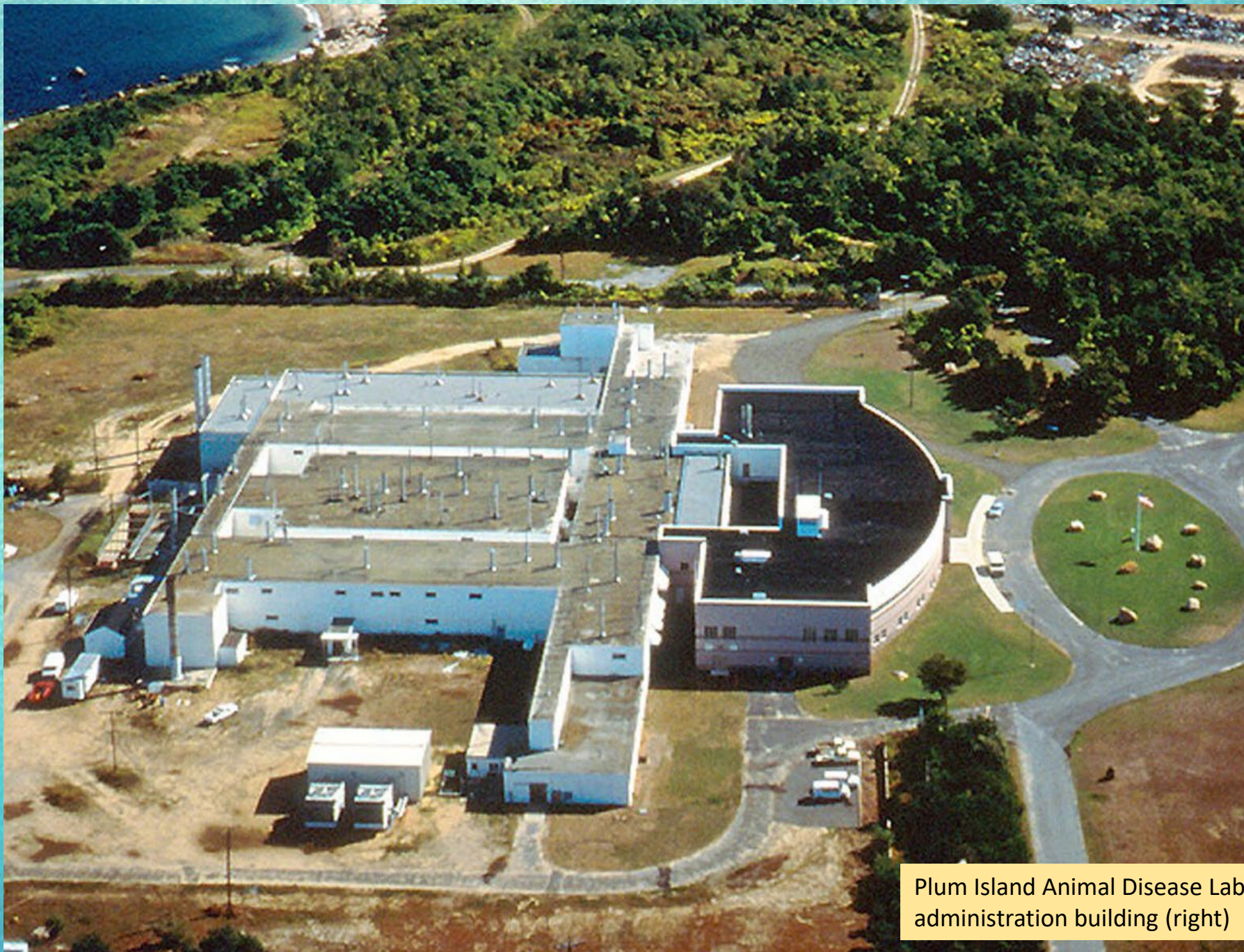


2012 and 2016 scientific dive report
available at NYNHP.org/plumisland



Robert Lorenz





Plum Island Animal Disease Laboratory (left) and administration building (right)

The Problem: Congressional sale language, 2008, updated 2012

“Secretary shall liquidate the Plum Island
asset...through public sale all...personal property
assets which support Plum Island operations
*subject to such terms and conditions as necessary
to protect government interests and meet
program requirements.*”

**FOR SALE
BY OWNER**

United States Government



**117 regional
and national
organizations**

See our members: www.preserveplumisland.org/partners

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*What do you see,
instead? Show us.*



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Save the Sound and The Nature Conservancy with consulting firm Marstel-Day



- Three formal workshops
- Many additional smaller meetings
- Local, Regional, and State interests
- Questions raised
- Iterative process
- Results

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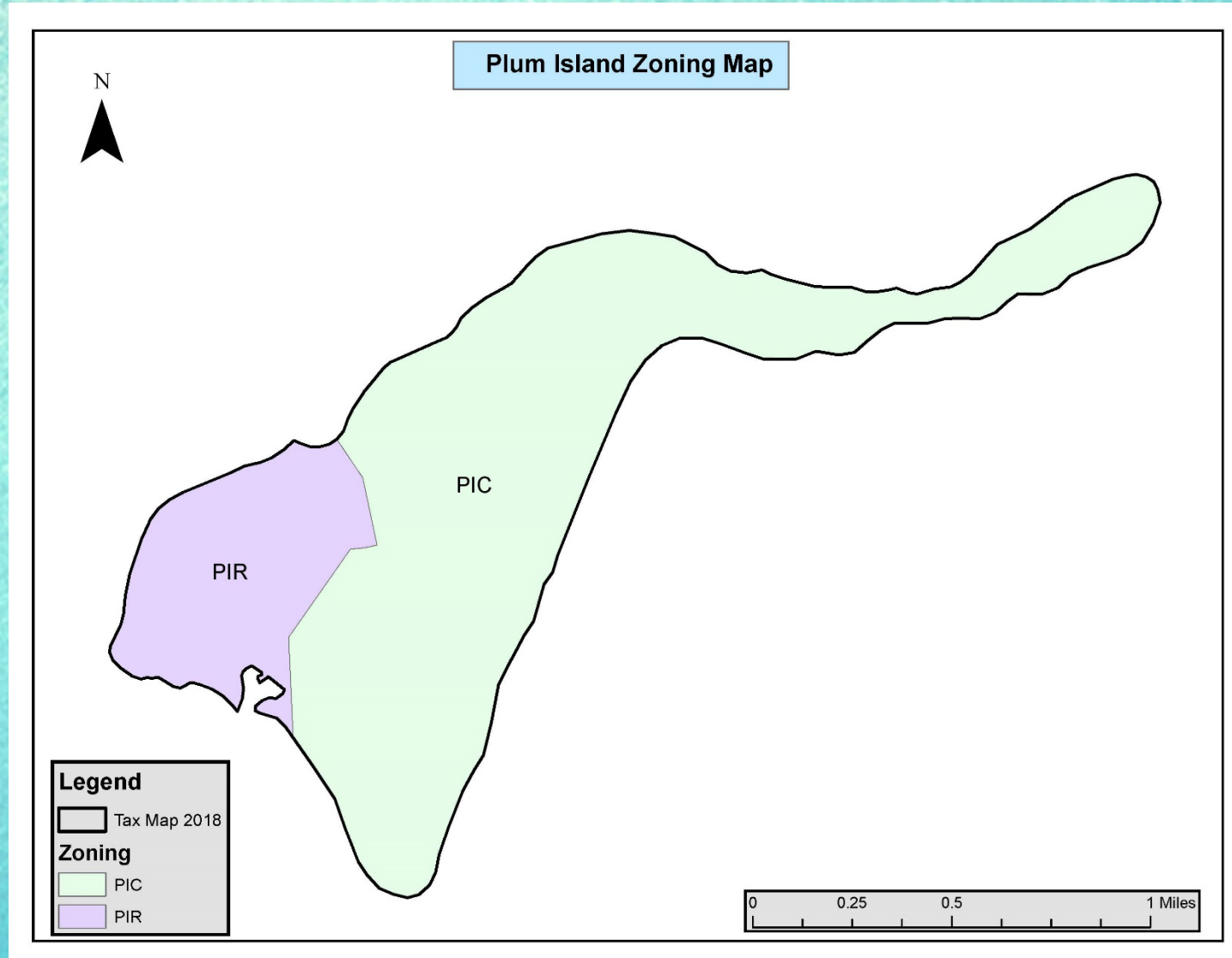
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Southold Town Zoning Widely Supported



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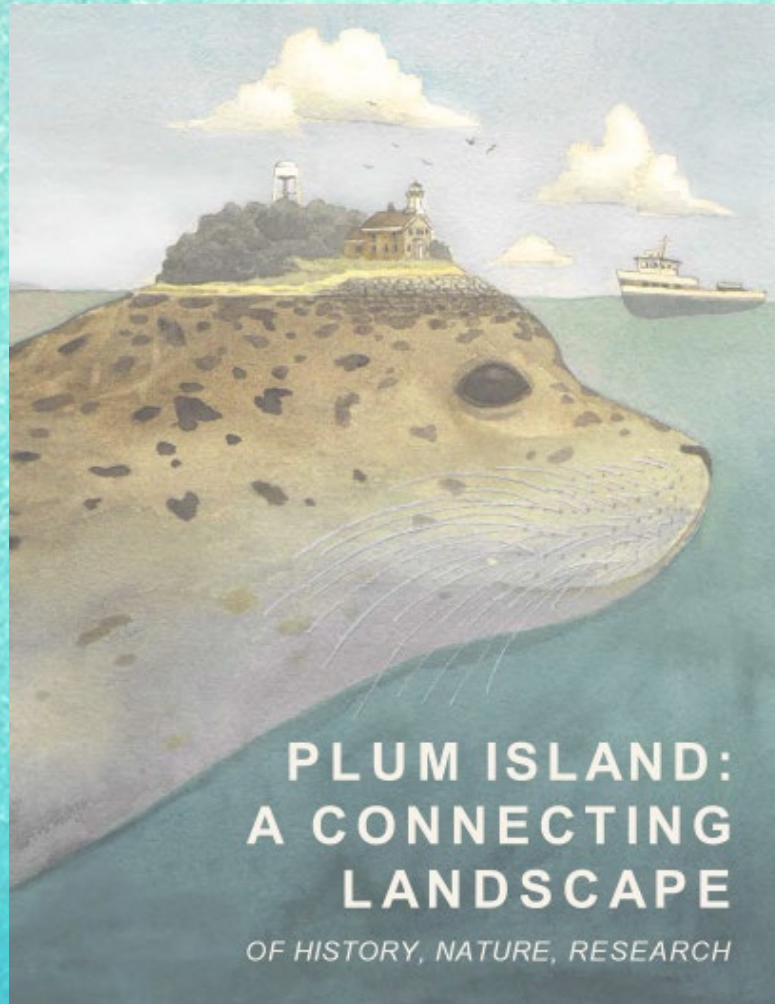
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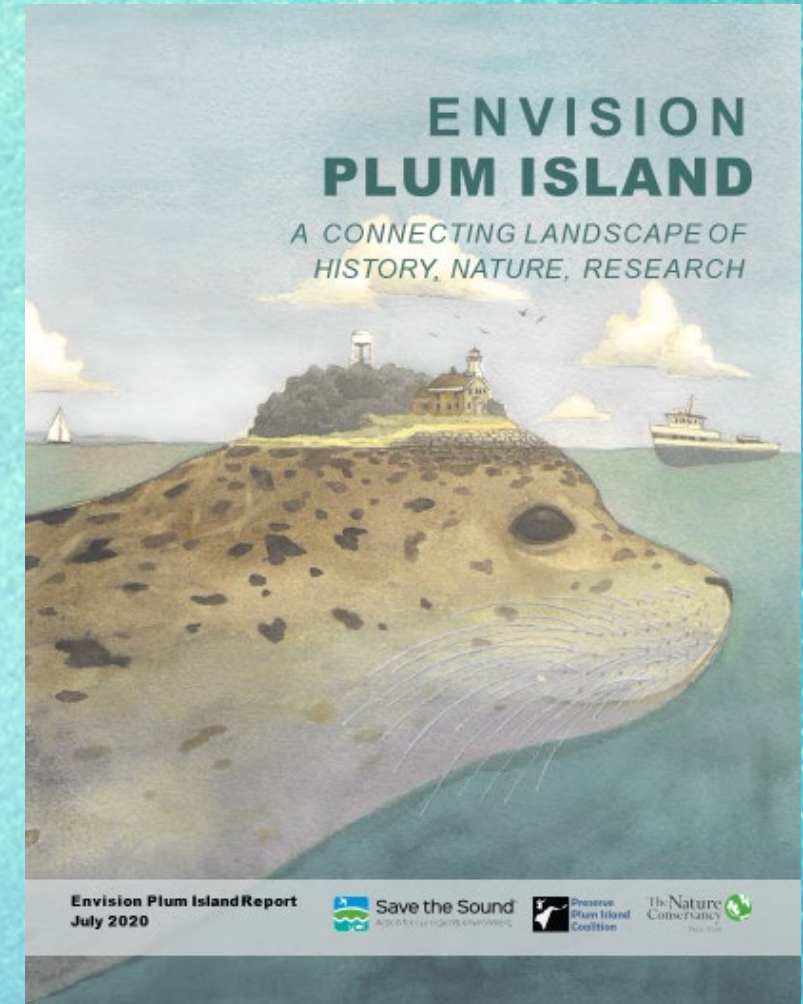
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www.preserveplumisland.org/envision-report

Pictorial
Brochure



Full
Report



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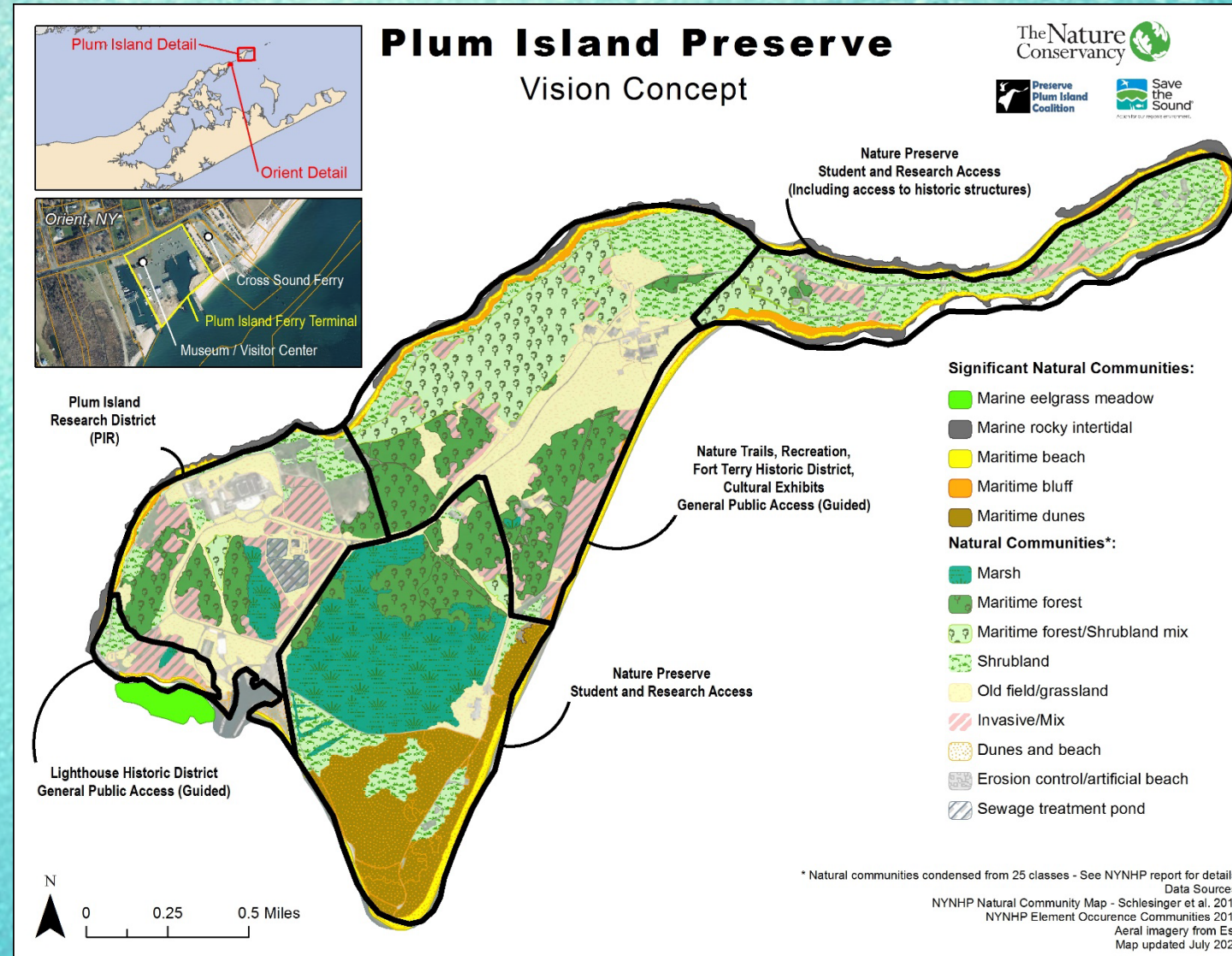
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Our region developed the Vision

By 2023:
Plum
Island
Preserve



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PLUM ISLAND PRESERVE

Preserve ecological value
Preserve history and cultural heritage
Preserve high quality jobs



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Opportunity Zone

Park • Research • Education



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Conservation District



James Dineen

- Protect biodiversity
- Public access, *controlled*
- Wildlife observation
- Cultural heritage
- Historical interpretation
- Research areas
- Ecological restoration



Former Fort Terry Guardhouse



Chris Zeeman

Research District



- Academic/industry research campus, 125 Ac
- Long Island Research Corridor LIA Priority
- Renewable energy, biotech, grid cyber-security, climate, ecology
- Provide ferry access
- Resources for Conservation District

Doug Kurtz, East Hampton Star

**Community benefit packages through offshore
wind project mitigation requirements?**

**Plum Island as a field station for the proposed
Global Climate Center on Governors Island?**

Commercial opportunities for research?

Sustainable Tourism



- Restored, reused National Historic Register Plum Island Lighthouse
- Possible Bed-and-Breakfast
- Ferry Access
- Easements to Conservation District
- Passive recreation

Structures Adapted for Jobs



Note the bird-safe windows with kelp-forest motif look out over Plum Gut with Orient Point in background. Artist's concept.

- Former administration building
- Auditorium space
- Museum at Plum Island ferry dock, Orient Point
- Fort Terry structure for field research
- Retain job opportunities after PIADC leaves

Getting There



- Three ferries with island
- Transport workers
- Plum Island dock adjoins major ferry service across Long Island Sound
- Need not increase local congestion
- Popular and fun travel

Plum Island Ferry Dock, Orient Point, NY



- September 2020: Southold's rezoning to Marine III (MIII)
- MIII dedicated solely to ferry travel to and from Plum Island
- Potential for small museum/visitors center
- Public access to Plum Island can be sustainable

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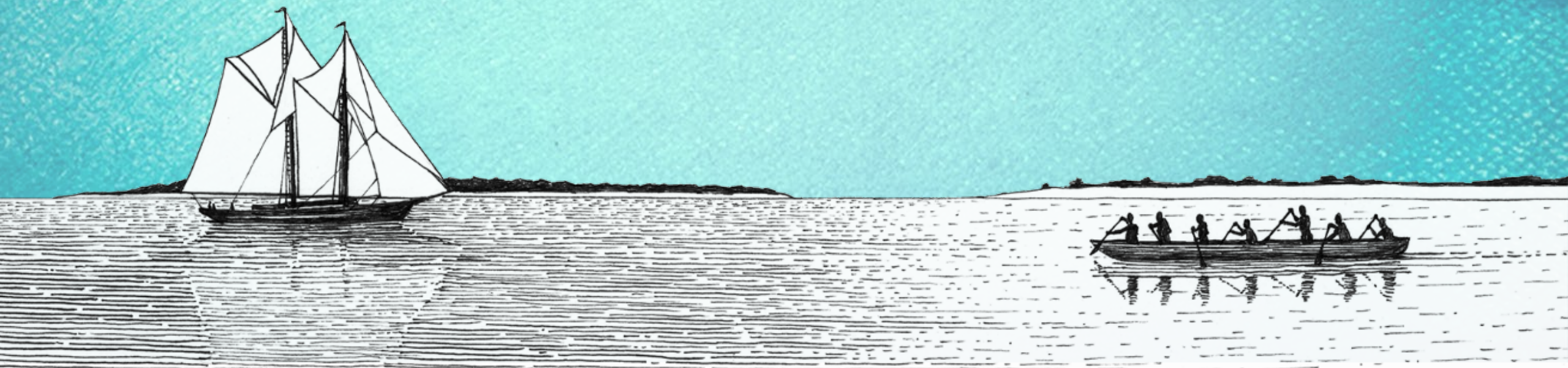
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Property transfer (conveyance) types that could work for New York State:

Public Benefit Conveyance

Negotiated Sale



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We learned...

Conveyance Pathways for Plum Island



- Repeal of 2008 and 2012 laws reinstitutes the **standard federal property disposal process**
- The process can provide for wildlife conservation, historic preservation, and positive economic outcomes

**Repeal the
problem
legislation**

ACHIEVED!
December 2020



Department of Interior

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge**

National Park Service

New York State

- **Transfer,**
- **Low-cost public benefit conveyance, or**
- **Negotiated sale**



**For any future public acquisition:
Friends of Plum Island**

Plum Island Preserve is feasible

Plum Island Preserve has broad support

**With public ownership and a
Friends of Plum Island group, we can make it a reality**



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THANK YOU

***We are grateful to the following for major support of
our work on Envision Plum Island:***

The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut • Fisher Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo • The Geoffrey C. Hughes Foundation • The Jaeger Family Fund • Chester Kitchings Family Foundation • Michael S. and Carolyn W. Levine • Henry D. Lord • Ruth Lord Charitable Trust • The M.L.E. Foundation • Overhills Foundation • Robert F. Schumann Foundation • The M. & H. Sommer Foundation • Tortuga Foundation



Envision Plum Island
Report and Brochure at
preserveplumisland.org/envision-report

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